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CURRENT MINNESOTA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

April, 1983 Supplement to The Review of Labor and Economic Conditions

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Nation

Most of the indicators for March suggested that the Nation's economy was continuing to recover and was somewhat stronger than in February. However, according to other data for the first quarter as a whole, the expansion in the first quarter was modest compared to the first year growth of earlier post-war recoveries.

The employment situation appeared to be a little healthier in March. Although the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by only 0.1 of a percentage point to 10.3 percent in March and total employment (seasonally adjusted) remained at 99.1 million, developments in other categories indicated that the economy was expanding. Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment in March rose 119,000 to 88.9 million after a decline of 185,000 in February. Even more significant was another increase in manufacturing employment. After being hard hit by the recession, factory employment has grown slowly but steadily since December. Also encouraging in March was a 226,000 decline in the number of people working part time who usually work full time.

Other developments in March and the first quarter were indicative of a moderate recovery. Although the first quarter growth in real gross national product was modest by historical standards, it was the largest gain since the first quarter of 1981. While relatively strong advances were posted in industrial production and personal income in March, retail sales rose weakly and housing starts actually declined. However, the drop in housing starts was expected and starts were still far above the year earlier level.

State

Employment trends in March and in the first quarter suggest that the State's economy has been on a plateau since December. Although the unemployment rate is still very high, both the rate and total employment have shown little change in the first quarter. Moreover, nonfarm wage and salary employment appears to have ended the 15 month slide in December.

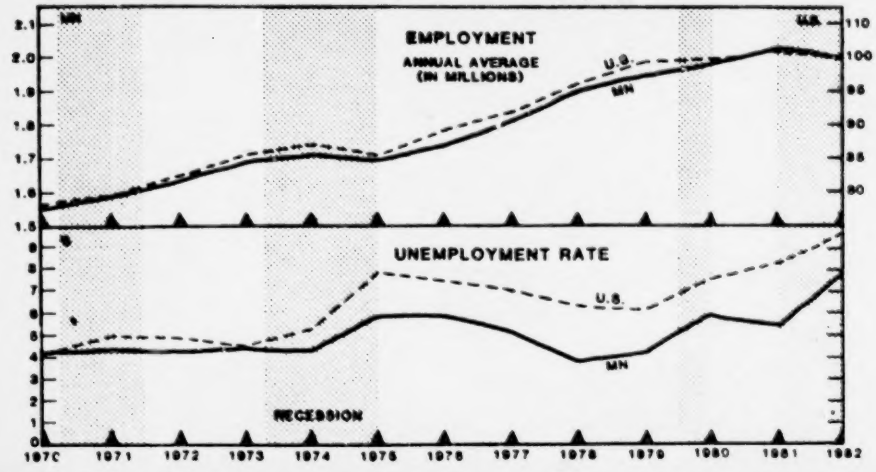
Minnesota's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate fell 0.1 of a point in March after holding at a record high of 10.3 percent in both January and February.1/ The March decline was close to the average of the past 13 years' changes between February and March. Also, the change in unadjusted total employment in March was not significantly different from the average February to March changes of past years. However, updated seasonal adjustment factors and revised employment figures show that seasonally adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment has been rising slowly since December. Most of the three month gain in wage and salary employment was the result of increases in the nondurable manufacturing, trade and services industries. Meanwhile, seasonally adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment in March was still 80,000 below its recent high in September 1981.

Other data for March hinted that the economy may improve in the coming months. The average workweek in manufacturing (seasonally adjusted) has been edging upward since September and seasonally adjusted average weekly initial claims for unemployment benefits declined in February and March.

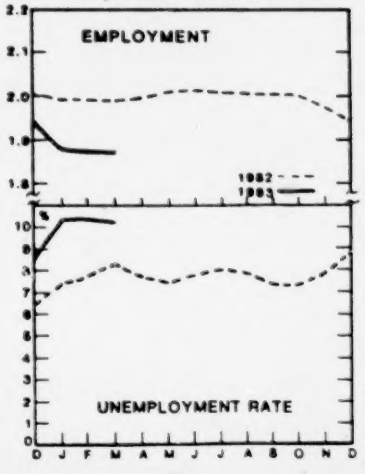
Labor Force Estimates

	MINNESOTA (Numbers in '000's)			UNITED STATES (Numbers in '000,000's)		
	March 1983	Change From Last Mo.	Change From Year Ago	March 1983	Change From Last Mo.	Change From Year Ago
Civilian Labor Force	2092.0	-4.3	-38.3	109.9	0.2	1.1
Employed	1879.0	-0.4	-77.0	98.0	0.7	-0.5
Unemployed	213.0	-3.9	38.7	11.9	-0.5	1.6
Unemployment Rate						
Actual	10.2	-0.1	2.0	10.8	-0.5	1.3
Seasonally Adjusted	n.a	n.a	n.a	10.3	-0.1	1.3

MN and the U.S., Employment & Unemployment Rate



MN, 1982 and 1983



1/ It should be noted however, that the March estimate may be too high because of an aberration in the current population survey data for Minnesota.

Minnesota Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment, Hours, and Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT[1] (thousands)			PER CENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Mar. 1982	Feb. 1983	Mar. 1982	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL	1658.3	1651.9	1698.6	0.4	-2.4						
MANUFACTURING	331.5	329.9	349.6	0.5	-5.2	377.55	374.86	9.51	9.49	39.7	39.5
Durable Goods	196.9	195.8	211.3	0.6	-6.8	382.99	381.10	9.48	9.48	40.4	40.2
Furniture, Lumber and Wood	13.2	12.8	12.2	3.2	7.8	396.78	385.07	10.20	9.95	38.9	38.7
Stone, Clay and Glass	7.4	7.1	7.0	3.3	5.7	367.68	365.16	9.60	9.46	38.3	38.6
Primary Metals	4.8	4.8	6.1	-1.2	-21.2	344.96	341.64	8.80	8.92	39.2	38.3
Fabricated Metals	32.1	32.4	34.2	-0.8	-6.2	423.91	428.86	10.39	10.46	40.8	41.0
Nonelectrical Machinery	76.6	76.5	86.1	0.2	-11.1	389.30	389.14	9.66	9.68	40.3	40.2
Electrical Machinery	25.8	25.4	26.5	1.4	-2.9	345.17	343.48	8.46	8.46	40.8	40.6
Transportation Equipment	5.9	5.8	5.7	2.0	2.4	414.72	396.98	10.24	10.05	40.5	39.5
Other Durable Goods 2/	31.2	31.1	33.4	0.4	-6.5	359.35	356.24	8.68	8.71	41.4	40.9
Nondurable Goods	134.6	134.1	138.3	0.4	-2.7	369.20	366.70	9.54	9.50	38.7	38.6
Food and Kindred	43.0	43.0	44.3	0.1	-2.9	347.91	345.59	8.99	8.93	38.7	38.7
Textile and Apparel	4.5	4.4	5.5	1.7	-19.1	229.24	220.72	6.35	6.20	36.1	35.6
Paper and Allied	31.7	31.6	32.4	0.4	-2.3	447.88	446.95	10.44	10.37	42.9	43.1
Printing and Publishing	35.2	35.1	35.2	0.3	0.2	363.62	353.62	10.33	10.37	35.2	34.1
Chemical and Petroleum	9.1	9.1	9.1	0.4	-0.4	392.34	407.43	10.06	10.11	39.0	40.3
Rubber and Leather	11.1	11.0	11.7	0.9	-5.6	306.87	308.09	7.95	7.92	38.6	38.9
NONMANUFACTURING	1326.8	1322.0	1349.0	0.4	-1.7						
Mining and Quarrying	7.8	7.6	11.0	2.0	-29.0	464.99	467.60	13.21	13.36	35.2	35.0
Metal Mining	6.5	6.4	9.7	0.7	-32.8	485.42	489.59	14.07	14.15	34.5	34.6
Construction	44.3	43.8	49.5	0.9	-10.7	534.07	536.93	14.96	15.04	35.7	35.7
Building	12.3	12.8	14.9	-3.6	-17.4	508.94	506.46	13.83	13.80	36.8	36.7
Highway and Heavy	4.3	3.8	4.9	11.9	-11.8	425.29	463.05	11.98	12.25	35.5	37.8
Special Trades	27.7	27.2	29.8	1.5	-7.1	563.90	563.64	16.02	16.15	35.2	34.9
Transportation	59.8	59.4	60.8	0.6	-1.7						
Railroads	13.3	13.1	13.7	1.1	-3.3	465.89	465.89	10.15	10.15	45.9	45.9
Trucking and Warehousing	22.0	22.1	22.9	-0.1	-3.9	429.16	431.34	11.79	11.85	36.4	36.4
Public Utilities	32.9	32.8	34.2	0.1	-3.8	469.56	473.54	12.04	12.08	39.0	39.2
Communications	18.9	18.9	20.0	0.3	-5.4	428.12	428.12	11.12	11.12	38.5	38.5
Elec., Gas and Sanitary	14.0	14.0	14.2	-0.1	-1.6	516.27	524.29	13.07	13.14	39.5	39.9
Trade	414.9	410.9	420.8	1.0	-1.4	213.74	213.60	7.27	7.29	29.4	29.3
Retail	306.5	302.8	309.6	1.2	-0.7	168.84	166.52	6.30	6.26	26.8	26.6
General Merchandise	42.5	42.6	44.4	-0.1	-4.2	159.89	158.33	5.90	5.93	27.1	26.7
Food Stores	43.7	43.4	43.9	0.8	-0.4	209.28	202.02	7.61	7.51	27.5	26.9
Automotive	32.8	32.6	33.2	0.6	-1.2	243.02	238.56	7.19	7.10	33.8	33.6
Eating and Drinking	101.7	99.5	101.0	2.2	0.8	99.90	99.90	4.69	4.69	21.3	21.3
Wholesale	108.4	108.0	112.2	0.4	-3.3	367.10	373.07	9.61	9.69	38.2	38.5
F.I.R.E.	97.2	97.2	97.6	0	-0.4						
Finance	46.2	46.1	45.8	0.1	0.9						
Insurance	35.4	35.4	35.6	-0.1	-0.8						
Real Estate	15.7	15.7	16.2	-0.1	-3.0						
Service Industries	379.2	377.7	375.3	0.4	1.1						
Hotel and Lodging	19.1	19.0	18.8	0.5	1.6						
Business Services	55.8	55.9	54.5	-0.2	2.3						
Health Services	134.2	133.6	130.4	0.4	2.9						
Private Education	24.4	24.4	24.0	-0.1	1.8						
Soc. Serv., Museums etc.	81.1	80.6	82.0	0.6	-1.0						
Government	290.7	292.4	299.9	-0.6	-3.0						
Federal	29.8	29.8	30.0	0	-0.4						
State	73.9	74.8	73.3	-1.2	0.8						
Local	187.0	187.8	196.7	-0.4	-4.9						

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.
2/ Includes Scientific Instruments and Miscellaneous Industries.

Labor Force Data: State, SMSAs, and Counties

Area or County	March, 1983 Prelim. Labor Force 1/	Unemp.	Un. Rate
State of Minnesota	2091949	212965	10.2
Metropolitan Areas			
Duluth/Superior (Duluth City Only)	36465	6140	16.8
Fargo/Moorhead (Clay County, MN Only)	27345	2446	8.9
Minneapolis/St. Paul SMSA 2/	1137917	90158	7.9
Rochester SMSA (Olmsted Co.)	56670	3790	6.7
St. Cloud SMSA 3/	75242	9337	12.4
Counties			
Aitkin	5476	1431	26.1
Anoka	109240	10051	9.2
Becker	11859	2069	17.4
Beltrami	15796	1922	12.2
Benton	11613	1445	12.4
Big Stone	3731	385	10.3
Blue Earth	28316	2330	8.2
Brown	15001	1460	9.7
Carlton	11865	1909	16.1
Carver	20572	1824	8.9
Cass	9608	1705	17.7
Chippewa	6801	815	12.0
Chisago	14680	1665	11.3
Clay	27345	2446	8.9
Clearwater	4015	1057	26.3
Cook	2135	376	17.6
Cottonwood	7000	522	7.5
Crow Wing	16411	2625	16.0
Dakota	106770	8536	8.0
Dodge	7718	1006	13.0
Douglas	12795	1503	11.7
Faribault	10763	1221	11.3
Fillmore	11568	1293	11.2
Freeborn	17775	2297	12.9
Goodhue	19029	1781	9.4
Grant	3282	331	10.1
Hennepin	514778	38358	7.5
Houston	9127	843	9.2
Hubbard	5346	979	18.3
Isanti	9972	1402	14.1
Itasca	17515	3927	22.4
Jackson	7293	441	6.0
Kanabec	5296	846	16.0
Kandiyohi	17258	1774	10.3
Kittson	3179	390	12.3
Koochiching	7463	1149	15.4
Lac qui Parle	5456	391	7.2
Lake	4557	1110	24.4
Lake of the Woods	1777	228	12.8
Le Sueur	11489	1713	14.9
Lincoln	3450	353	10.2
Lyon	14140	1243	8.8
McLeod	15975	1781	11.1
Mahnomen	2663	393	14.8
Marshall	6150	1205	19.6
Martin	13322	1147	8.6
Meeker	10479	1599	15.3
Mille Lacs	3590	1265	14.7
Morrison	13137	1978	15.1
Mower	17426	1812	10.4
Murray	5649	615	10.9
Nicollet	14474	1098	7.6
Nobles	11274	774	6.9
Norman	4295	428	10.0
Olmsted	56670	3790	6.7
Otter Tail	22963	3041	13.2
Pennington	6238	793	12.7
Pine	9464	1634	17.3
Pipestone	5274	376	7.1
Polk	15535	1725	11.1
Pope	5180	609	11.8
Ramsey	251284	18601	7.4
Red Lake	2141	410	19.1
Redwood	10174	815	8.0
Renville	10676	1137	10.7
Rice	22962	2631	11.5
Rock	5188	315	6.1
Roseau	5276	868	16.5
St. Louis (Inc. Duluth)	94272	21662	23.0
Scott	24606	2448	9.9
Sherburne	13880	1806	13.0
Sibley	8077	997	12.3
Stearns	49749	6086	12.2
Steele	15832	1466	9.3
Stevens	5572	481	8.6
Swift	6035	682	11.3
Todd	11126	1305	11.7
Traverse	2560	294	11.5
Wabasha	8995	1063	11.8
Wadena	5279	807	15.3
Waseca	8702	946	10.9
Washington	62036	4561	7.4
Watonwan	6363	562	8.8
Wilkin	4114	410	10.0
Winona	21861	2618	12.0
Wright	33951	4114	12.1
Yellow Medicine	7220	665	9.2

Technical Notes:

1/ Labor force data is computed according to BLS methodology. The method includes an adjustment to assure that the sum of the substate areas equals the separately estimated State total. This adjustment is Applied to all county and SMSA areas. County and area unemployment was multiplied by an adjustment factor of 1.47 ; employment was multiplied by 1.01. For a more detailed explanation see the Review of Labor and Economic Conditions, Vol. 4, No. 4, (February 1978 issue), p. 29.

2/ Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, and Wright Counties.

3/ Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties.

Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

Tables 1 and 2 provide data on persons who filed a claim for unemployment compensation in Minnesota during the month. Only those claiming benefits from the regular State program are represented since data on the characteristics of Federal employees and veterans are not available.

In March, claimants for unemployment benefits fell by 5,576 or 6.7 percent from February. The over-the-month decline was the largest numerical drop since February 1978 and the biggest percentage decrease since February 1979. Almost 70 percent of the March decline took place in the mining, construction and manufacturing industries. Claimants in mining fell by 26 percent in March. Over-the-year, the number of claimants declined by 2,048 or 2.6 percent. Although the decrease was rather small, it was the first annual decline since October 1981. The decline from a year ago was largely the result of sizeable reductions in mining and construction claimants.

Table 1. Distribution of Insured Unemployed, By Age and Sex, March, 1983

Age Groups	Number	Percent Distributions		
		Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTALS	78002	76.2	100.0	100.0
Under 45	60319	77.3	78.5	73.6
Under 25	16861	76.2	21.6	21.6
25-34	28955	79.5	38.7	32.0
35-44	14503	74.4	18.2	20.0
45 and Over	17683	72.3	21.5	26.4
45-54	9962	72.6	12.2	14.7
55 and Over	7721	71.9	9.3	11.7

Table 2. Distribution of Insured Unemployed By Industry and Occupation, March, 1983

Industry and Occupational Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent Long-Term 1/ Unemployed	Women as Percent of Total
Total, All Industries	78002	100.0	25.4	23.8
Ag., For., Fish.	2040	2.6	34.2	11.0
Mining	3543	4.6	38.0	5.4
Construction	21788	27.9	19.3	2.7
Manufacturing	20849	26.7	27.0	32.6
Pub. Utilities	3485	4.5	18.6	13.8
Wholesale Trade	5120	6.6	29.1	20.3
Retail Trade	8766	11.2	25.2	41.8
Fin., Ins., Real Est.	1418	1.8	36.0	53.9
Services	8832	11.3	29.7	47.9
Public Admin.	1324	1.7	28.9	29.6
Inf. Not Available	837	1.1	6.9	22.8
Total, All Occupations	78002	100.0	25.4	23.8
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	7100	9.1	32.6	35.5
Clerical	6278	8.1	30.5	78.1
Sales	2611	3.4	26.8	38.5
Services	4763	6.1	30.1	54.3
Farm., For., Fish.	1669	2.1	37.6	10.4
Processing	3741	4.8	11.2	33.7
Machine Trades	5035	6.5	30.1	12.4
Benchwork	6421	8.2	28.8	52.5
Structural Work	24589	31.5	19.9	1.7
Misc.	15528	19.9	26.2	8.9
Inf. Not Available	267	0.3	22.1	34.1

1/ Long-Term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

Job Service Applicant Supply and Demand

Table 3 compares Job Service (J.S.) job applicants with the J.S. job openings that existed at the end of the month. These comparisons are expressed as supply/demand ratios. Other things being equal, the greater the ratio of applicants to openings, the greater the competition has been for work within that occupational category. To put these ratios into context, the reader must remember that not only do job seekers and employers in general find jobs or recruit workers through other means, but those interested in certain kinds of jobs are particularly unlikely to use the J.S. For example, workers seeking professional and Managerial jobs are least likely to use the J.S., whereas employers usually recruit construction workers through union halls and hire teachers directly. Thus, the main value of Table 3 is that it reflects, for broad occupational groups, the relative labor market conditions that those using the J.S. encountered when seeking work.

Table 3. Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand 1/

Occupation	Applicants (Supply) March 1983	Job Openings (Demand) March 1983	Supply/Demand Ratio	
			March 1983	March 1982
Total	140842	11980	11.8	10.0
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	20115	1789	11.2	8.9
Clerical	22536	2742	8.2	10.7
Sales	6747	1364	4.9	3.2
Dom. Services	1325	426	3.1	8.8
Other Services	18433	1973	9.3	4.9
Farm., Fish., For.	2759	472	5.8	43.1
Processing	3625	434	8.4	7.6
Machine Trades	11299	344	32.8	20.3
Benchwork	9628	299	32.2	23.3
Structural Work	22007	937	23.5	38.6
Mtr. Frght., Trans.	6866	277	24.8	22.8
Pkg. & Mat. Hndlg.	13588	848	16.0	13.7
Other	1914	68	28.1	27.9

1/ Inexperienced and improperly coded job applicants are not included in this table.